

should adopt this concept throughout the implementation recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

Property owner's actions: The A/P Management Conference's mandate should reflect a respect for individual property rights. At the same time, the Management Conference should comment on individual activities that could harm the watershed and its resources, or that are counterproductive to the goals of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

Separating short-term crises from long-term conflicts: The A/P Management Conference should create a forum for groups and individuals to handle short-term topics so that such issues do not distract from long-term management efforts of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine complex.

Growth management: The A/P Management Conference should address growth management in the CCMP. The Management Conference should work with existing growth management and planning groups and ensure that planning is based on a regional ecosystem framework and incorporates a long-term planning horizon. This work should recognize local governments as the ultimate implementors of growth management policies.

State, local and county governments: The A/P Management Conference should examine government agencies' current mandates, responsibilities and capacities, find effective ways to promote collaboration, and reduce redundancy or overlap in environmental management programs.

Organization

Framework: The A/P Management Conference should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of its successor's framework of operation and organization.

Funding: The A/P Management Conference should provide its successor and local governments with the authority to raise funds to implement estuary and watershed protection, restoration, and management efforts through a variety of means. The Conference should also work with the nongovernmental organizations to help them obtain the necessary resources and funding to fulfill the responsibilities they have in CCMP implementation.

Alternative ways of handling funds: The A/P Management Conference should establish a non-profit institution to serve as a flexible mechanism for fulfilling future program needs that extend beyond the current fiscal framework.

Composition of the decision making bodies:

Authority of appointed members: The A/P Management Conference should develop guidelines for membership on CCMP implementation committees and decision-making bodies to ensure that the members who represent various interests and agencies are able to speak with authority on policy issues and are able to make programmatic commitments. Guidelines should be developed to ensure the representation of all affected user groups in a balanced and uniform manner.